

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 SAJ-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /183 W
----- 045607

R 191100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6212

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AF, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECH AID TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: CERP 0002

1. RADIO AND NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 17 PROMINENTLY CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CZECH DEVELOPMENT AID CREDIT TO AFGHANISTAN OF \$20 MILLION. PROJECTS UNDER THIS CREDIT WILL BE EXAMINED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY BEFORE ANY DRAWINGS ARE MADE ON THE CREDIT. PROJECTS MAY INCLUDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF COAL MINES, THERMAL POWER PLANT, TROLLEY LINE FOR KABUL, ROADS, AND CEMENT, TANNING AND SHOE MANUFACTURING, AS WELL AS OTHER INDUSTRIES.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE TWO COUNTRIES SIGNED A NEW BARTER TRADE PROTOCOL, RENEWING ONE SIGNED IN 1968. AFGHANISTAN WILL CONTINUE SUPPLYING FOODSTUFFS AND RAW MATERIALS IN EXCHANGE FOR MACHINERY AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT THE VOLUME OF TRADE WOULD INCREASE UNDER THIS PROTOCOL. UNDER THE OLD ONE, BILATERAL TRADE WAS ESTIMATED AT UP TO \$4 MILLION EACH WAY.

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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH A BARTER TRADE PARTNER FOR SOME TIME, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, HAS NOT BEFORE

PROVIDED ANY DEVELOPMENT FINANCING. THE CAUTIONARY PHRASE IN THE
ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING "FEASIBILITY" MAY MEAN THAT DRAWINGS
WILL BE SLOW AND LIMITED, BUT THE FACT OF THE AGREEMENT RAISES
AFGHAN-CZECH RELATIONS TO A NEW LEVEL.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, BARTER TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL08600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731216/aaaaalsr.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CERP 0002
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECH AID TO AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: EAID, AF, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005